

The Farm

Protection of Cows.

Far better to rig up a pine-brush shed than to let the cows or calves shiver during a bitter cold night in the lee of an old straw stack. When storms are brewing see that all the stock is safe and warm. Then you can go to bed satisfied and sleep. Either feed your stock well or sell it; don't have anything lean, hungry, cold and sore-eyed.—Farmers' Home Journal.

Sod Basins For Trees.

The landscape gardeners of one of New York City's parkways have devised an attractive way of protecting the base of tree-trunks by arranging a square border of sod, two feet wide, around each one of the trees bordering the boulevard. In this way the soil between the border and the tree-trunk may always be kept loose, allowing the moisture of rains to soak into the ground and nourish the roots.

Were it not for this sod basin the gravel path, coming close to the tree, would, in time, become firmly trodden down, causing the tree to suffer accordingly.

The idea is one that could be adopted elsewhere to good advantage.

Harvesting Alfalfa.

The first point to accentuate as we approach the subject of harvesting is the pre-eminent value of the leaves. These contain from seventy-five to eighty per cent. of the protein of the whole plant, that valuable compound that goes to produce milk and meat. It has been estimated that a ton of properly cured alfalfa leaves is equal in protein to 2800 pounds of wheat bran; and when it is also estimated by careful observers that the loss of leaves in harvesting, even under favoring circumstances, ranges from fifteen to thirty or more per cent., it is readily seen that the harvesting is an important part in alfalfa making.—From Coburn's "The Book of Alfalfa."

Scientific Forestry.

A Consular report comes from Germany which shows that scientific forestry is a practical and money-making proposition. It is stated that the German Empire has nearly 35,000,000 acres of forests, of which forty per cent. belongs to the State. German forestry methods have resulted in raising the average yield of wood per acre from twenty-two cubic feet in 1830, to sixty-five cubic feet in 1904. During the same period it has trebled the proportion of the sawed timber secured from the average cut. In fifty-four years it increased the money returned from an average acre of forests sevenfold, yet to-day, the German forests are in better condition than ever before.—Farmers' Home Journal.

Feeding Frosted Corn.

Untimely severe frosts sometimes damage the corn crop so that its marketable value is considerably lowered, but in this event, as in other cases, the hog comes to the rescue. Soft corn is considered excellent for swine, and especially for the young; in fact, many breeders believe they can obtain better gains from soft corn than with the sound, hard grain. In soft corn the maturing of the grain has been checked, thereby arresting the development of the starch content or fat-producing element. When used it is advisable to add, for finishing, some corn that is well matured. Immature corn that is frozen and even somewhat soured may be fed to hogs, but if there is on hand a greater quantity in that condition than can be used on the farm before warm weather sets in it should be disposed of while the weather is cold. Ordinarily it may be used in cold weather without danger, but it should not be carried over into the warm season, as it will ferment and become unfit for use.—From Coburn's "Swine in America."

Gold and Gilt.

Professor Fraser, of the Illinois Agricultural College, makes a plain difference in "Gold" and "Gilt," the names of two cows on the college farm. He says:

They were brought up alike on a farm near Elgin, Ill., and obtained their early education in the same herd of 100 cows. Here at the university, with the very same surroundings and equal opportunities, they have drifted apart in character, and their progress has been in opposite directions. It is not a difference of hide, or horns, or temper; it is not that one is wild and the other a pet. It is not a difference of beauty or intelligence, but solely a difference in the way they have worked, a difference in the money they have earned for the owner.

All the milk of these cows has been weighed and tested for three years. A record has been kept of every pound of feed consumed by each animal, both summer and winter.

Each year Gold produced on the average 11,390 pounds of milk, containing 405 pounds of butter fat, but during the same time Gilt averaged only 3830 pounds of milk, with 138 pounds of butter fat.

These cows were both cared for in the same way; they were given the same kinds of feed and allowed to eat all they wanted. Gold ate one-half more than Gilt, but produced three times as much milk.

Equal amounts of feed made in the one case 188 pounds of butter fat and in the other 100 pounds. The one cow produced nearly twice as much as the other from exactly the same feed in kind and amount.

Counting the butter fat at twenty-three cents per pound and taking out the exact cost of feed in each case, the one cow brought in a profit of \$34.59, while the other lacked \$5.62 of paying for her board at market prices of feed each year.

This comparison, exact and complete, for three years, and including the record of both milk and feed, means a great deal more than a single year's comparison or one in which it is necessary to introduce an estimate.

It would be gratifying, indeed, if it could be truthfully said that these two records are extreme and exceptional, and therefore do not stand for any general condition of the dairy business. But the very opposite is true.

Hard Milkers.

Dr. David Roberts, the Wisconsin State Veterinarian, writes us on this subject:

A cow or heifer with a nice, large, well developed udder with four good size teats placed squarely upon same, seems like a source of pleasure, providing that they are easy milkers, but the same sort of a cow or heifer being termed as a hard milker is as a rule a source of annoyance, especially to those who do the milking.

Owing to the fact that a cow or heifer is a nice, easy milker, they are usually milked out clean at each milking. In this way they are enabled to keep up their regular flow of milk, while on the other hand if they be hard milkers the milker becomes discouraged and impatient, and fails to draw out the natural quantity. The cow or heifer will then soon show the effects of this by drying up on her milk. In this way many a valuable cow has become practically worthless as a milk producer.

Hard milking in cows or heifers can be positively overcome in a short period of time and in a very economical way, not by the use of the milking tube, but by the use of the teat plug.

The teat should be washed with an antiseptic solution, the teat plug should be dipped in a like solution, then in a little ointment and passed into the point of the teat, and being self-retaining, should be permitted to remain in the teat from one milking to another. In this manner hard milking can be made a thing of the past.

The Shoulders of the Horse.

Coming now to what is meant by "harness" shoulders in a saddle, the term is more or less erroneous, for the reason that the position of the shoulders should be oblique in harness as well as in saddle horses. Those who use the term mean to convey the idea that the shoulders are more or less upright and the withers more or less thick and meaty. This formation, as already detailed, presupposes a short neck and a suited way of going, both of which are very bad faults in a saddle. A certain amount of jerk-and-slam action may go with straight shoulders, but all the most accurate actors in the high-stepping classes have possessed sloping shoulders; indeed, a very decided slope is necessary to enable any horse to show the correct sort of action, which may be described as that the fore foot should apparently be following the circumference of a rolling wheel. Forest King was the greatest actor we have ever had in this country. Anyone who remembers the set of his shoulders will grasp the point sought to be made instantly, when it is stated that the truest and best action is never associated with straight shoulders. At that, however, much straighter shoulders will do for ordinary harness uses than for the saddle, for in the leather they have not to sustain the superimposed weight of the rider. Hence the application—or rather misapplication—of the term "harness" in describing or discussing the shoulders of saddle horses.—Breeders' Gazette.

Disappearance of Lakes.

Whether the globe on which we dwell is gradually drying up or not is a question that has been much debated. Recent discoveries in central Asia have been regarded by some as favoring an affirmative answer, but others have replied that the observed phenomena are simply periodic changes. Dr. Walsen, of Zurich, champions the affirmative view on the ground that a great number of European lakes have certainly disappeared within the last 250 years. The canton of Zurich, for example, had 149 lakes a quarter of a century ago, and only seventy-six to-day. He believes that a similar tendency to disappearance has affected the lakes of Germany and Russia.—Youth's Companion.

An Exaggeration.

Her hair looked like a stack of sea moss with strands of oakum and kelp and dried alfalfa twisted through it. Occasionally she pushed the bunch back into place, and it trembled like a living thing.

"The trouble with the new fashions in hair," she drawled, "is the unfortunate fact that the shop girls seize upon the latest arrangements don't you know, and grossly exaggerate them."

She pushed back the stack as she spoke, and six puffs, three short curls, and a yard of fuzzy filler fell to the floor with a noiseless thud.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.



(Fac-simile of the genuine package slightly reduced.)

BURDENS LIFTED FROM BENT BACKS

Weary is the back that bears the burden of kidney ills. There's no rest nor peace for the man or woman who has a bad back. The distress begins in early morning. You feel lame and not refreshed. It's hard to get out of bed. It hurts to stoop to tie your shoes. All day the ache keeps up. Any sudden movement sends a sharp twinge through the back. It is torture to stoop or straighten. At night the sufferer retires to toss and twist and groan. Backache is kidney ache—a throbbing, dull aching in the kidneys. To cure backache you must first cure the kidneys. Plasters or liniments won't do. You must get at the cause, inside.

DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS CURE SICK KIDNEYS

BACKACHE, DIZZINESS, NERVOUSNESS

Completely Relieved by Doan's Kidney Pills in Two Tests.

Mrs. P. W. Bessinger, 1328 Taylor St., Columbia, S. C., says: "I heartily recommend Doan's Kidney Pills, knowing from experience that they are a valuable remedy. Several years ago I suffered severely at times from pains in the small of my back and often felt dizzy and nervous. The kidney secretions were irregular in passage and caused me much annoyance. Hearing Doan's Kidney Pills highly recommended I procured a supply, and after taking the contents of several boxes I was so greatly relieved that I considered it unnecessary to continue their use. Recently I felt a slight recurrence of my trouble, but I immediately began using Doan's Kidney Pills and was relieved."

HOW TO TELL WHEN THE KIDNEYS ARE DISORDERED.

PAINFUL SYMPTOMS—Backache, sideache, pains when stooping or lifting, sudden sharp twinges, rheumatic pains, neuralgia, painful, scanty or too frequent urination, dizzy spells, dropsy.

URINARY SYMPTOMS—Discolored or cloudy urine. Urine that contains sediment. Urine that stains the linen. Painful passages. Blood or shreds in the urine. Let a bottleful of the morning urine stand for 24 hours. If it shows a cloudy or fleecy settling, or a layer of fine grains, like brick-dust, the kidneys are disordered.

TWO YEARS CURED. Backache, Kidney and Bladder Trouble Disappeared For Good.

J. A. Wirt, Russell St., Canisteo, N. Y., says: "I had kidney and bladder trouble for more than a year. My back was lame and I had an ache across my kidneys day and night. For days at a time I could not stoop or lift, and if I attempted to do so sharp shooting pains radiated through my body. The kidney secretions were unnatural and there was much sediment in them. The passages were also too frequent and caused me much annoyance. Having Doan's Kidney Pills brought to my attention I obtained a box. Their use brought relief in a few hours, and the contents of four boxes completely cured me. At that time I told of my experience in a public statement, and can now say that during the years which have since elapsed I have found Doan's Kidney Pills effective whenever I have taken them."

A TRIAL FREE Test Doan's Kidney Pills Yourself

Cut out this coupon, mail it to Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y. A free trial package of Doan's Kidney Pills will be mailed you promptly.



DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS

Sold by all dealers. Price 50 cents. FOSTER-MILBURN CO. Buffalo, N. Y. Proprietors.



Womanly Wisdom.

From the March Farm Journal.

If you would be farsighted you must learn to live on the heights.

Happiness consists often in just forgetting.

Fried ham is improved in flavor by sprinkling it slightly with sugar on both sides before frying.

Have a pair of canvas gloves near the wood-box, with which to handle the wood, take out the ash pan, etc.

Woman, what, downhearted? Then go outdoors and stay a few hours a day. Nature is a wonderful healer of weary nerves.

A glazier's knife will be found an excellent thing in the kitchen with which to scrape and clean the bottoms of pans and kettles.

"I s'pose you might say, looking' at it one way, that liquor's great stuff to sort of even up things. Of course it takes shingles off a man's barn, but then it puts patches on his pants."

Quit worrying over things you can not help.

She didn't think how it would sound: A widow erected a monument to her husband, with the inscription, "Rest in peace until we meet again."

To keep sausage and sparerib fresh till summer: Fry and pack in jars, then pour over all melted lard. Be sure to use pure lard and not the grease in which the sausage or meat has been fried, for such grease will contain some water which will cause the meat to become strong as soon as warm weather comes. The lard used will be good for cooking purposes, for being poured over after the sausage is fried it will have none or very little of the flavor from it. After trying several ways this has proved the only satisfactory one of keeping either sausage or sparerib through the warm weather.

Many stores, even in rather small towns, have a "rest room" for those who come to trade. Perhaps you have not discovered this. Ask, next time you are in town, and see how it is. And if enough people ask and ask earnestly enough, the stores which now do not have such places will soon get them.

Never buy spectacles of men who come along offering you great bargains. The chances are that you will not get a fit and you will pay more than the glasses are worth. The eyes are too precious to be tampered with in any such way. Go to some reliable man and have your eyes really fitted. That's the way to do it.

When baking cookies, or any small cakes, invert the pan and place them on the bottom. They are not so easily scorched and are more readily removed.

When pressing men's trousers, in order to take the bagginess out of the knees, press them first perfectly flat with the seams on the edges; then put the seams together and iron the crease down the front.

Ask the good man of the house to look at the supports of your swinging shelves in the cellar, before they come down under the load of canned things. Such a smash would be grievous; indeed. Don't risk it.

HINTS FOR STOCK OWNERS.

A small quantity of oil-meal is a valued addition to the grain ration at this time.

The air ships are flying high, but they can not overtake pork. The humble pig has become the most important animal on the farm.

March winds whittle the flesh right off the cows. Keep them in out of the cold.

We would not hear so much about Pasteurizing in the creamery if there were a little more pasturizing in the dairy.

Take pains to exercise the horses and harden them up before the real spring work begins. This is necessary if you wish to avoid delays and risks.

The farm animals are shedding their coats, and the Peter Tumble-down cows will soon show clean flanks for the first time since last fall.

If much chilled, the lamb should be taken at once to a warm room, and plunged in water as hot as the hand will stand.

Then wrap the lamb in hot flannel and rub it dry.

If a ewe loses her lamb, she can be taught to mother a twin by confining her in a narrow stall.

Standing in the barn will spoil a horse sooner than good steady work. When you see his legs begin to stock up, hurry and get him to work at something, if it is nothing more than exercising in the yard every day. Keep that up till you have some real business to do.

"I sang because I could not choose but sing," wrote the poet, and that about expresses the lay of the hen. Then laws of nature rather than "dope" control her output.

—March Farm Journal.

GUMPTION ON THE FARM.

Speculate not on distant things.—Chinese Proverb.

Virtue is its own reward, but a little cash helps out.

Quarrels make enemies and leave the question still unsettled.

Talk things over with the hired man; it will help both you and him.

Arrange so the chips do not fly all over the yard when chopping wood.

The Poultry Yard.

From the March Farm Journal.

Skim-milk is thin looking stuff, but it may be put to good use in the poultry yard.

A little more clean litter on the floors. Keep the fowls hard at work. It is the price of health.

In poultry raising the breed is important, but the man or woman behind the breed is more so.

Chickens that lay around almost anywhere sometimes are merely emulating their betters.

The man who keeps hens is not so much of a philosopher as the man who has the hens keep him.

Excelsior always seemed to me rather cold stuff to make nests of. Good fine, clean oat straw is about the best of anything that we ever tried.

As a rule, eggs from two-year-old hens give better satisfaction at this time of the year than when from younger stock, and the chicks are more vigorous.

Do you keep your chickens, or do they keep you?

The eggs of hens that did heavy laying during the winter are not so apt to be as strongly fertilized, as eggs from hens that made but a fair showing.

A shelf, a couple of feet below the roosts, is handy to catch the droppings, and handy to clean. And don't forget to clean it.

For hatching purposes, take the eggs from the hens that lay best. Build up; never let the standard down.

The last egg laid before a hen goes to setting will often be so small that it will have no yolk at all. There is an old notion that it is bad luck to bring these small eggs in the house.

A nest that suits the turkey hen first-rate may be made by turning a salt barrel on the side. Put straw in the hollow, and a nest egg, and cover the barrel over with brush, if you have it handy.

One of my neighbors says that there's no money in poultry, and that the easiest way to get eggs is to buy them. He says that he keeps chickens to eat the bugs in his orchard; pays 'em a cent a bug.

When a hen lays now and then, and not soon again, and you can't decide whether she hadn't better quit altogether, I'll tell you what to do: Why, just ax her to, and neither in box nor in keg will she ever lay another egg.

Is there a place under some old building where you can spade up the earth and give it to the hens to work at? They will dig away hard to find the worms that may be in it. Nothing will do them more good.

Any system of feeding is expensive if the hens do not lay, and the greater the number of non-producers the greater the cost of every egg produced. Improper feeding or overfeeding may be the cause of a flock yielding only half of what it should. It will be found that the surest course of feeding is to follow as nearly as possible along the line of nature, and this means variety in such a way as to compel exercise.

Wise and Otherwise.

Many a nut is not what it was cracked up to be.

A horse may know a good bit without a college education.

One of the surest ways to lose a friend is to lend him money.

Anti-fat remedies are seldom needed by the man who leans on hope.

It is quite useless to tell the goat not to butt in; he will do it anyway.

There are any number of men who, while ever ready to share their troubles with their wives, manifest a strong disinclination to share their pleasures with them.

How can we tell whether a resolution is good or not till after we have broken it?

"It was all over in a minute," might refer to a railway accident or to a wedding.

THE OXEN.

Shoulder to shoulder all day long

The oxen labor across the field,

The pace is slow, but the plow is strong,

And stubble and tussock yield.

The plowman halts as the sun goes down,

And leaves his plow near the furrowed loam.

Then slowly over the meadow brown

He follows the oxen home.

Side by side in their stanchions there

The oxen stand at the close of day,

Happy are they and free from care,

Eating their evening hay.

They have borne the yoke from sun to sun,

Shoulder to shoulder in true accord,

And now they reap, when the day is done.

The laborer's just reward.

—From March Farm Journal.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

There are strong points of similarity between a football rush and a bargain-counter rush.

In these times of high prices everybody has to pay. Even the oyster is compelled to shell out.

We are told that blasts from a ram's horn knocked down the walls of Jericho, and we have seen a blast from a ram's horn knock down a man.